

Courier

Inside this issue...

- ♦ **Teen Driving Forum - 1**
- ♦ **Sewer Science - 1**
- ♦ **Millennium Forum - 4**
- ♦ **News to Use - 5**
- ♦ **DFS Career Expo - 5**
- ♦ **Long-term care - 6**
- ♦ **Briefs - 7**
- ♦ **Tech Tip - 8**
- ♦ **DOT head - 8**
- ♦ **Stars - 8**

Online, use the hand symbol above to transfer directly to the stories. The links are active, too.

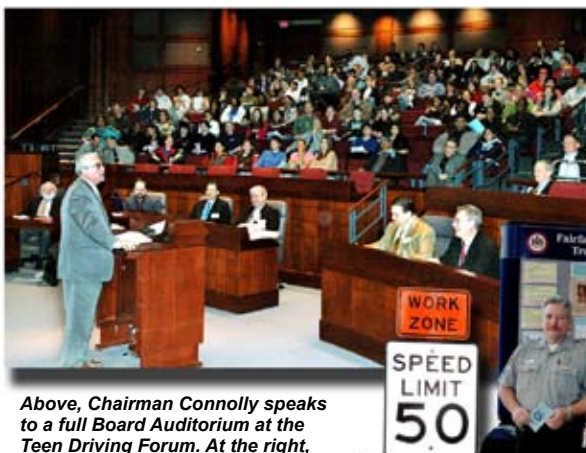
Teen Driving Forum

More than 350 people considered the topic important enough to come to the Government Center on Saturday morning, March 4, for the Teen Driving Forum. With the theme "The Road Ahead," the forum was sponsored by the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Citizens Advisory Council along with support

from Verizon Wireless and the Allstate Foundation. The forum followed up on the Young Driver's Summit held June 2005.

For several years, the county has recognized the need for a concerted effort to focus on teenage driving safety. As Board Chairman **Gerald E. Connolly** put it, "This is a serious subject. It's about saving lives. We must do a better job of

See Forum, page 2



Above, Chairman Connolly speaks to a full Board Auditorium at the Teen Driving Forum. At the right, MPO Bob Barton with the Police Department display.

Sewer Science!

What? Sewage is science? Well, it certainly is when considering all the biological and chemical processes necessary to transform wastewater to clean water. What many of us don't know is that Fairfax County Wastewater Management is at the forefront of science, transforming a potentially harmful product to water which is environmentally safe and may actually help improve

the environment.

The Noman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant in southern Fairfax County is one of the many successes in the county.

The facility employs cutting-edge technology to clean wastewater and monitor the final wastewater discharge, helping area residents continue to enjoy one of the best qualities of life

See Science, page 3



Forum, from page 1

training and educating our young drivers." Last year, the Board of Supervisors launched a safe teen driving initiative.

The morning was devoted to information on teen driving and recommendations on ways for improvement. Dr. **Bill Van Tassel** from the American Automobile Association pointed out that 16-year-olds are twice as likely as 18-year-olds to be involved in traffic accidents, primarily because of inexperience in driving. He also said research shows that two-thirds

of traffic fatalities are male with most accidents occurring on weekends.

Many in the audience were parents who came with their teenagers. The Lind family

of McLean said they were appreciative of programs that stress safe driving. "Driving in this congestion is a challenge even for experienced drivers," said **Howie Lind**. Daughter **Holly**

Lind pointed out that she has just gotten her driver's permit and had driven to the Government Center today, proud that she had successfully negotiated both I-95 and I-66 roadways.

Janet Oleszek, school board member, recounted her personal experience of the previous week when she attended the funeral of a young college student who was killed in a car accident. "As parents, we've got to educate our children about the risks in driving," she said.

Police Chief **David Rohrer** underscored the importance of the forum, saying, "Responsibility for safe driving rests not just with the teenagers but with parents as well. Awareness is the key and we in the Police Department are doing everything we can to make our residents aware of the dangers on our roads." The Police Department is going

to county schools with many good safety programs, according to Police Lieutenant **Frank Cresswell**, head of the Youth Services Division.

Michael McClanahan, member-at-large on the Citizens Advisory Council, pointed out

how personal teen driving is to him. "There are three memorials to teen driving fatalities within a quarter of a mile of my house," said the Burke, Va., resident. "I'll do what I must to help educate teenagers, including my own son, in safe driving practices."

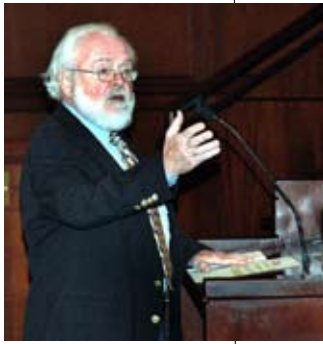
Luis Perez, attorney and member of the Citizens Advisory Council, gave up his Saturday morning to help register attendees. "We

need to do so much to enhance the communications between teenagers and parents about safe driving," he said.

The program included

a discussion by Judge **Thomas Mann** of the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, who explained the importance of having a contract between parent and teenager regarding driving, and distributed sample contracts. "Remember, parents, you are in control," he said.

The program concluded with a judicial perspective on teen driving by Chief Judge **Gayl B. Carr**, Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. She emphasized safety both inside and outside the car. Her advice included: don't get on a cell phone, have everyone wear seat belts, no cutting up in the car, don't rush because you're late and pay attention to the road. "I want to see you here so I won't see you in court," she said. Then she concluded the program by saying, "Stay alive. We love you." ■



John Harold,
Citizens Advisory
Council chairman.



Paula Harper, Luis Perez and Amir Oveissi
help with registration.



Jackie, Holly, Melody
and **Howie Lind**.



Janet Oleszek
talks with **Blair**
Richardson about
the program.



Judge Carr (l), John Harold (c) and Judge Mann (r)
talk with attendees about safe driving issues.

Science, from page 1

in our nation. But recently, Wastewater Management staff found themselves in another role: that of teacher and mentor.

Sewer Science is the name of an exciting new hands-on program that employees of Wastewater Management are taking into area high schools. The program is an educational initiative of the Water Environment Federation in which Fairfax County actively participates. The program teaches high school students about municipal wastewater treatment and management through a week long



Betsy DeSouza-Wyatt, science instructor, at J.E.B. Stuart High School.

laboratory program that simulates wastewater treatment processes. Some of the things the students learn are primary clarification, biological secondary treatment, disinfection, filtration and ammonia reduction – all important aspects of wastewater treatment.

Employees of Wastewater Management in collaboration with Stormwater Management have been working with school science teachers to tailor the program to their needs. Sewer Science, which supports the Virginia Standards of Learning for biology and chemistry, is taught by the science teacher with assistance and support from county employees. "So far, the program has been taken into six high schools with great success," said **Elaine Schaeffer**, director of the Environmental Management Branch, pointing out that



608 students already have participated in the hands-on program. By the end of June, more than 1,500 students in 14 high schools will have completed the week long program.

According to **Judy Fincham**, program coordinator and one of the 13 mentors who work with the high schools, students manufacture polluted water and then are taught some of the steps that can help improve the water quality. "The students analyze the water

and then start basic treatment processes, such as settling, removing top debris and applying biological additives," she said. Students also learn to do tests to determine water quality parameters, such as pH, ammonia and chemical oxygen demand. Students are given workbooks to guide them through the treatment processes and help them understand the results of their experiments. "Science teachers love the program because

it's hands-on work, introduces students to real-world situations and is under the sponsorship of professionals," said Fincham. The goal is to have all 25 county high schools complete the program by the end of 2006.

So what is the message here? The county does exciting things that many people, including our own employees, may not be aware of. And often, those programs can be creatively transformed into educational opportunities that have long-term results. Congratulations to Wastewater Management for sharing its expertise with the future leaders in Fairfax County. ■



Top to bottom: students at J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church work on the Sewer Science program.

- Photos provided by Noman Cole Pollution Control Plant.

Millennium Forum

The value of creativity

"We must tap and harness the creative" in order to keep the economy growing, Dr. **Richard Florida** told county staff at the Millennium Forum on March 1. Florida,



Dr. Richard Florida

the bestselling author of "The Rise of the Creative Class," pointed out that economic growth in U.S. communities depends on attracting people who

work in engineering, finance, education the arts, science, entertainment, health care and



County employees line up to buy signed copies of Dr. Florida's books

law. More than 45 percent of the workforce in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area work in these fields, and this is why this area is one of the fastest-growing regional economies in America. Nationally, the percentage of people in the "creative class" is only 3.9 percent.

Florida, who holds a doctorate in urban planning and is a professor at George Mason University, said that the transition to a creative economy is comparable to the industrial revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries that drastically altered society. "What we are going through is really big," he said.

In the U.S. during recent decades, the work concept has shifted from company/jobs, where people would go to a company for a job, to a jobs/skills, where companies are moving to where the skilled resources are. He said the Northern Virginia area is a clear example of this with well-educated people now attracting companies that are seeking skilled and technology-trained people. "Place is becoming more not less important," he said.

Florida explained that today's economy consists of three sectors – manufacturing,

the service industries and the creative professions. In the U.S., 40 million people work in the creative economy – about one-third of the workforce – but this percentage accounts for one-half of the salaries. Understanding what attracts people in the creative sector to a place can affect a region's local economy.

"It's not just about money anymore," Florida said when talking about job satisfaction and attractiveness. In his research, Florida found three factors that most attract people to a geographical area: technology, talent and tolerance. "It has got to be the kind of place where creative people of all ethnicities, races, genders, family types and sexual orientations feel comfortable," he said.

In a recent poll the Gallup organization conducted for him, Florida found that in our area, residents greatly value the environment and historical resources, and openness and tolerance, even more than low crime and good schools. He confirmed that bad traffic and expensive housing are the least attractive factors of our area.

Florida emphasized that the creative class driving our economic growth is not a superior or elitist group. "Every human being is creative," he said. He explained that employers should realize that human creativity determines an organization's success more than its technology.

After his talk, Florida signed copies of his book.

To borrow a videotape of Florida's presentation, call the Employee Lending Library for Video Instructional Services at 703-324-8318, TTY 703-324-8365, or e-mail john.kiefman@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The next Millennium Form is scheduled for May 10 when Dr. **Belle Wheelan**, the former secretary of education for Virginia and now president of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, will discuss "Working With Today's College Graduates." For more information about this series, visit <http://infoweb/mfs>. ■

– Pat Bangs, Fairfax County Public Library

Millennium Forum information is at <http://infoweb/mfs>

News to Use is new online resource

The Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, in collaboration with county agencies and departments, has launched Fairfax County News to Use, a new online information resource for residents, community organizations and businesses. The new information resource is located on the county Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news.

The online publication presents current highlights of the county in one central location, including news articles, key links, photos, e-government resources and calendars. With this publication, information about Fairfax County is now available to an expanded audience throughout the county, the state — and even the world.

News to Use information was previously in a subscriber-only, text-only monthly e-mail message targeted primarily to homeowners associations for their newsletters. The new version is available to anyone with Internet access (the page is currently best viewed in

Internet Explorer). The News to Use page will be updated frequently and readers can join an e-mail list for occasional messages that will compile the latest headlines and information.

The conversion of News to Use to a Web publication will continue its basic purpose and content of offering practical, helpful information from Fairfax County departments and agencies in an enhanced format that will be updated as news occurs.

For more information about Fairfax County News to Use, contact the Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov. ■



Career and Entrepreneurship Expo at Government Center

Saturday, March 18, Fairfax County will host the Second Annual Career and Entrepreneurship Expo - *Envision Your Success* - from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The event is open to the public. Admission and parking are free. No pre-registration is required.

Fairfax County's SkillSource Centers, the Center for Business Planning and Development, the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board and employers throughout the region are joining forces to present this unique event. More than 1,000 jobseekers and prospective entrepreneurs are expected to attend as well as representatives from over 50 major employers including CVS, Cox Communications, Northern Virginia Training Center, Inova Health Systems, Verizon, Chevy Chase Bank, Air Wisconsin, Hyatt Hotel and Buhl Electric.

Keynote speakers include **Aneesh Chopra**, the new secretary of technology for the commonwealth of Virginia; **Stephanie Watkins**, U.S. Small Business Administration regional administrator; and **Gerald Connolly**, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Participants can attend training workshops as well as informal one-on-one meetings with private sector company recruiters and business counselors from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Virginia Department of Business Assistance, George Mason University, the Business Development Assistance Group and local economic development agencies.

For more information, or to request this information in an alternate format, contact **Ximena Rada**, Dept. of Family Services, 703-533-5400; 703-533-5316, TTY 711 or by e-mail at lourdes.rada@fairfaxcounty.gov. ■



You can get the rules and entry form for the 2006 Courier Photo Contest at <http://infoweb/courier/2006/photocontestrules.htm>

Focus on Benefits



Long-term care insurance: A benefit to consider for you and your family

Long-term care insurance became a part of the county's benefits package in 2003. Like your life insurance, a retirement pension, savings plans and deferred compensation accounts, LTC should be considered a part of an overall financial package for the future. But it is not for everyone, and, as with any other insurance, if you are lucky, you may never collect on the benefit. Statistics show, however, that if you live past the age of 65, the chances you will need long-term care at some point are almost one in two. LTC services are not covered by the health plans. If you did not enroll when you were first eligible, you may want to review the county's plan offering and see if it is a benefit that fits into your long-term financial planning needs.

What is long-term care insurance?

Long-term care insurance pays for services you may need if you are unable to care for yourself. This plan provides a daily benefit amount ranging from \$100 to \$250 when you are unable to perform at least two or more activities of daily living such as dressing, eating, and bathing or when you have a severe cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's disease. The plan provides you with a pool of money that is available immediately after your single 90-day qualifying waiting period. You choose where you want to receive care: at home, an assisted-living facility, nursing home, adult day care or hospice.

retirees and family members will also require completion of an enrollment form and medical questionnaire.

Voluntary inflation protection offer.

Participants who choose the voluntary option will have an opportunity to increase their coverage every three years as long as they elect to increase their coverage by at least \$1 when the voluntary offer is made available. Since the contract has been in effect for three years, current participants who opted for the voluntary inflation protection option will be eligible to increase their coverage from April 1 through 28 without proof of good health. These participants can elect coverage increases

in any dollar amount ranging from \$1 to \$40. For example, a plan participant with a daily benefit amount of \$150 will be able to utilize the voluntary inflation protection option and increase the daily benefit amount to any amount ranging from \$151 to \$190. The coverage change will become effective June 1, 2006. Aetna will send eligible plan participants a detailed letter in March on the voluntary inflation option.

LTC Plan Meetings

A representative from Aetna will provide an overview of the plan, including the voluntary inflation protection option at the scheduled meetings noted below:

March 28	Government Center	Conf. Rm. 2/3	9 a.m.
	Penino Building	Conf. Rm. 206 A/B	2 p.m.
March 29	Government Center	Conf. Rm 4/5	9 a.m.
	Massey Building	Lg. Conf. Rm. A level	2 p.m.
March 30	South County	Rm. 221C	10 a.m.

Who needs plan approval?

Employees who did not apply during their initial eligibility period may apply anytime, but they will need plan approval. These employees will need to complete an enrollment form and a medical questionnaire.

Retirees, spouses of employees and retirees, surviving spouses of retirees, adult children of employees or retirees, as well as parents or parents-in-law, grandparents or grandparents-in-law of employees may also apply for the coverage at any time. Coverage for

How to enroll or increase coverage.

Employees, retirees and family members can download enrollment forms from Aetna's Website at www.aetna.com/group/fairfax-county, or call the Aetna hotline at 800-537-8521 or HR Central, DHR at 703-324-4900, TTY 711, and request an enrollment kit or form. Voluntary inflation offer forms will be mailed to participants in March. Completed enrollment, medical questionnaire and voluntary inflation protection forms should be returned directly to Aetna. ■

Briefs

Briefs

Briefs

Spring Crafts Bazaar

The Employees Advisory Council's Spring Crafts Bazaar will be held on Friday, March 31, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the first floor of the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The exhibits are open to the general public, but crafters are limited to Fairfax County employees, retirees and their immediate families. Proceeds from the show are used to benefit county employee programs.

The exhibition fee is \$30 per space. Crafters must bring their own tables and chairs. To register for this event, go to the EAC Web site at www.fceac.org/events/craftshow or leave a voice mail at 703-324-7045, TTY 711.

Severe Traffic Alerts

For severe traffic alerts – plus normal business hour emergency weather alerts (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), 24/7 emergency weather alerts or weather-related county government closings or delays – employees should log in and update their profile on the county's Emergency Alert Network. Alerts, notifications and updates can be sent to any or all of your technology devices, including any e-mail account, work or home; cell phone (text message costs may apply); pager and PDA. Especially important when you update your profile, please include the building you currently work in. You will find answers to frequently asked questions on the Web page at <http://ean.fairfaxcounty.gov/faq.php>. If you need further support, you can also contact tech support by e-mail at eansupport@fairfaxcounty.gov or use the Web-support form at <http://ean.fairfaxcounty.gov/supportform.php>.

Changes to Vending Machines

As of March 3, there will be a price increase of 25 cents, to \$1.25, for all 20-ounce sodas in all vending machines under contract with Fairfax County. This includes all police stations and other satellite buildings now being served under the vending contract. All other prices remain the same. In addition, the cold food machine on the lower level of the Government Center was removed on March 3 due to a lack of sales. For more information, contact **Elyce Rollins**, FMD, at 703-324-3272, TTY 711.

Free Tax Assistance Available

The Fairfax County CASH Program (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) is offering free income tax assistance to low- and moderate-income families (making under \$38,000 per year) from now until April 15. The CASH program will be running through April 15 at locations throughout Northern Virginia. Families can call 703-222-0880, TTY 703-222-9452, or visit the Office of Partnerships Web page at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/partnerships for specific information on sites and opening hours.

Workforce Diversity: Generation Gap?

Generational differences exist on many levels in the workplace, from language and dress to values, skills, etiquette and work styles. This can be a source of conflict or of cooperation, depending upon how it's managed.

Training sessions are offered by the Office of Equity Programs and presented by the Virginia Institute of Government, University of Virginia in cooperation with Chesterfield University. The managers and supervisors session is March 28 from 1 to 4 p.m.; the employees session is March 29 from 9 a.m. to noon. As a prerequisite, participants should have completed the Introduction to Diversity workshop. Space is limited; confirmations on a first-come basis. To register or request reasonable accommodations, e-mail oepttraining@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-2207, TTY 703-222-5494.

iCASPS is here

Learn about the new iCASPS accounts payable processing system on Wednesday, March 22, from 9 until 11 a.m. in the Board Auditorium. If questions, contact the Help Desk at 703-324-3535, option 4 or e-mail dslade@fairfaxcounty.gov. ■

2005 flexible spending account claim deadline is March 31

Employees who participated in the county's medical and/or dependent care flexible spending accounts last year must file any 2005 claims for reimbursement by March 31 with Ceridian. If claims are not submitted by the deadline, amounts remaining in the 2005 accounts will be forfeited.

To be eligible for reimbursement, expenses must have been incurred on or before Dec. 31, 2005. Ceridian reimbursement request forms are available on the DHR Benefits Web page under "Forms/Flexible Spending Accounts" on the county's Infoweb and can be faxed to 1-877-799-8820. Claims can also be mailed to Ceridian FSA Services, P.O. Box 534134, St. Petersburg, FL 33747, but must be postmarked by the March 31 deadline. ■

Word: Formatting pasted text

Have you ever copied text and pasted it into your Word document and noticed this annoying small square icon with a picture of a clipboard? This feature is the **Paste Options** button and allows you to select your preferred format that you would like associated with the copied text.

When you paste a selection in particular from another document or program into Word, formatting can often be a problem. The text will retain the format from the original source and you probably want the text to blend seamlessly with your document.

In most cases, when you paste text into your documents, Word displays the **Paste Options** button. Click on it, and you're given a few handy options. The available options depend on the type of content you are

pasting, the program you are pasting from, and the format of the text where you are pasting. To see the available options, click on the **Paste Options** button.

The options will allow you to choose to keep the text formatting or change the formatting to match the surrounding text. Additionally, you can insert the text without any formatting or apply a defined style to the text. Simply click on your choice to make the change. There is a downside to the **Paste Options** button: It can be a nuisance. The button remains until you click it and make a selection or until you start typing again. Therefore, it can get in your way. If the **Paste Options** button is more of a nuisance than an asset, you can disable it.

If you would like to disable the **Paste Options** button, it only

Tech Tip # 102

Department of Information Technology
Technology Infrastructure Division
Technical Support Center
Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Tel: 703-222-3535, option 1
Fax: 703-222-3396
TTY: 711

takes a few steps:

1. Click **Tools** and select **Options**.
2. Click the **Edit** tab.
3. Under **Cut and paste options**, deselect **Show Paste Options buttons**.
4. Click **OK**.

If you disable the **Paste Options** button, you can always get it back. Just follow the above steps. Instead of deselecting the option, select it. ■

Ichter heads DOT

The Board of Supervisors recently appointed **Kathy Ichter** as director of the Department of Transportation. She has been with the department since 1984 and has served as acting director since July. ■




Kathy Ichter

Looking for some stars

The Department of Human Resources is looking for six employees to star in the redesigned video for New Employee Orientation. You will tell your story of how working for Fairfax County has enhanced your life. Specifically, DHR wants to hear why you chose Fairfax County as an employer or how you have taken advantage of the many benefits provided, including medical, tuition assistance, training and development, childcare center, fitness center or work/life balance options like telework and alternative work schedules. Merit employees from all levels and departments can submit their personal experience of why they enjoy or value working for Fairfax County.

Just submit a written statement of 50 words or less by April 3 to the Department of Human Resources, Suite 270, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035, Attn: **Margaret Savage**. If questions, please contact her at 703-324-3357, TTY 703-222-7314, or margaret.savage@fairfaxcounty.gov. In addition to "starring" in the video, winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate. ■



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